

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30002

December 1, 2014

PUBLIC NOTICE
and
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN
FOR THE
MOBILE OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE (ODMDS)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 (EPA) has prepared a draft Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) to specifically address the disposal of dredged material at the Mobile Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS). A copy of the SMMP is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/sites.html>. Comments on the SMMP are requested from interested parties.

The Mobile ODMDS was designated by the EPA, pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, as suitable for the ocean disposal of dredged material. The Mobile ODMDS has an area of approximately 4.75 square nautical miles. Depths within the ODMDS average 14 meters below mean lower low water.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ocean dredged material disposal sites to ensure that ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the development and periodic review and revision of a site management and monitoring plan (SMMP) for each ODMDS. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or approvals shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the SMMP.

Section 228.3 of the EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations and Criteria (40 CFR 220-229) states: "Management of a site consists of regulating times, rates, and methods of disposal and quantities and types of materials disposed of; developing and maintaining effective ambient monitoring programs for the site; conducting disposal site evaluation studies; and recommending modifications in site use and/or designation." The MPRSA indicates that the SMMP shall include but not be limited to:

- o a baseline assessment of conditions at the site;
- o a program for monitoring the site;
- o special management conditions or practices to be implemented at each site that are necessary for the protection of the environment;
- o consideration of the anticipated use of the site over the long term;
- o a schedule for review and revision of the plan.

The objective of the SMMP is to provide guidelines in making management decisions necessary to fulfill mandated responsibilities to protect the marine environment, as discussed previously. Risk-free decision making is an impossible goal, however, an appropriate SMMP can narrow the uncertainty.

The SMMP will have a duration of four years and is expected to be superseded by a new SMMP upon completion of an expansion of the ODMDS currently under consideration by EPA and the USACE. Copies of the SMMP may be obtained from EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/sites.html>) and comments should be addressed to EPA at the address listed below. We request that you provide comments in writing and by January 31, 2015.

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